

Executive Summary
The Review and Renewal of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development
As Accepted and Affirmed by the USCCB Administrative Committee
September 15, 2010

(This Executive Summary provides a brief overview of the *Report on the Review and Renewal of CCHD*. For more on the CCHD Review and the plan to carry out the Renewal, please read the full report.)

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
liberty to captives, new sight to the blind
and set the captives free. . . (Luke 4:18)*

Introduction

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development was established in 1969 by the U. S. Bishops as a response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and an expression of the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church. CCHD was founded to help poor people help themselves escape poverty and address its causes by investing in their development so they can participate in the decisions that affect their families and communities. CCHD is a unique and essential part of the much broader Catholic commitment to overcome poverty. CCHD is a concrete application of the principles of Catholic social teaching. It pursues “the institutional path . . . of charity, no less excellent and effective than the kind of charity that encounters the neighbor directly. . .” (Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, 7).

CCHD is one of the most widely supported initiatives of our Bishops’ Conference. With the generous contributions and involvement of Catholic faithful for over 40 years, CCHD has funded innovative and effective self-help efforts to overcome economic injustice across our country with the leadership and participation of those who are closest to the problems of poverty. From the beginning, some have questioned CCHD goals, guidelines and funded groups. More recent criticisms have focused on particular organizations which are accused of taking action, contrary to CCHD requirements, which conflict with Catholic teaching. CCHD takes these charges very seriously and acts decisively to address them. CCHD deeply regrets that in this past year five of 270 groups violated CCHD requirements and were therefore defunded due to such conflicts. We apologize for the violations of CCHD policies by these groups and for the damage and confusion they have caused.

The bishops who oversee CCHD have undertaken this serious review of CCHD to make clear they have heard and are addressing these concerns; are reviewing and strengthening CCHD policies, practices and tools; and are building on Catholic principles and CCHD’s experience and strengths to ensure that CCHD is a faithful, effective and accountable work of the Church, carrying out its essential mission in full conformity with Catholic social and moral teaching.

Goals and Foundations for the CCHD Review:

- Reaffirm and clearly articulate the fundamental scriptural mandates and Catholic social principles that are the foundations of CCHD.
- Address questions and concerns by examining carefully CCHD’s current policies, practices, tools and relationships and taking specific steps to strengthen and improve CCHD’s important work.

- Adapt CCHD to carry out its anti-poverty mandate in current economic, social, cultural, moral and ecclesial realities. Seek more creative, flexible and strategic ways to carry out CCHD’s mission.
- Recommit our Catholic community of faith to a renewed and strengthened CCHD that is carrying out its essential mission faithfully and effectively.

This Review and Renewal is guided by a clear understanding and articulation of **CCHD’s Foundations**. These begin with its **Gospel Mission** and are deeply rooted in its **Catholic Identity**, especially traditional Catholic principles of *Respect for Human Life and Dignity, Priority for the Poor and Participation, Subsidiarity and Solidarity, and Strengthening Family and Building Community*. CCHD carries out this mission and these principles through the **Pursuit of Justice** by supporting self-help efforts to address root causes of poverty, education for justice and **Faithful Stewardship** of the human, financial, institutional and moral assets of CCHD.

These goals and foundations have shaped “**Ten Commitments for CCHD’s Future.**” These Commitments are a road map with specific steps to assure bishops, pastors, and the Catholic faithful that CCHD is faithful to the Gospel, its Catholic identity and its mission and is accountable and responsible in the ways it uses Catholic contributions to help break the cycle of poverty.

These Ten Commitments will:

- Better ensure that CCHD funds will not be used to support any activity which conflicts with fundamental Catholic moral and social teaching, particularly the protection and promotion of the life and dignity of every person, the sanctity of marriage and family and caring for and standing with “the least of these.” (Matt 25)
- Encourage and give priority to the participation of Catholic parishes and parishioners, pastors, religious and diocesan leaders in the ongoing work of CCHD, especially the engagement of Catholic people, parishes and institutions in activities and groups that carry out the mission and foundations of CCHD.
- Help CCHD be more focused and strategic in carrying out its mission by setting aside a portion of the CCHD collection for Strategic National Grants that reflect CCHD’s mission and foundations, address emerging issues impacting low-income communities and advance the priorities of the Bishops’ Conference especially as they impact poor communities (enhancing human life and dignity, strengthening marriage and family, respecting cultural and ethnic diversity and building bridges among diverse groups).
- Develop more specific ethical guidance to help the Bishops carry out CCHD’s policy of prohibiting funding to groups which are part of coalitions which act in conflict with fundamental Catholic moral and social teaching. Establish new structures, including ongoing consultation with moral theologians and a CCHD Review Board, to help bishops address moral issues involving organizational relationships and coalitions which may seek some common goals, but possibly also raise serious questions on what is morally permissible cooperation and collaboration and what is not.
- Initiate broader discussion of the moral and human costs of pervasive poverty in our nation, which apply Catholic teaching, especially *Deus Caritas Est* and *Caritas in Veritate*. This could include a pastoral message and/or other related resources which could address the challenges of human life and dignity, poverty and family life, education and economic justice, subsidiarity and solidarity today.
- Renew and reaffirm our shared commitment as pastors and disciples of Jesus and as a Catholic community of faith to support CCHD’s biblical mission, Catholic principles and essential work to help break the cycle of poverty.

The Ten Commitments (see full report for detailed plans.)

1. **CCHD's Catholic Identity** – CCHD will more be clear about the *Catholic* in the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. CCHD is reviewing every aspect of its work including funding criteria and guidelines, grant making process, applications and contracts to better reflect CCHD's foundations and Catholic principles and to help safeguard against any misuse of funds, now or in the future. CCHD will also more clearly specify prohibited activities, especially advocacy of abortion, same sex marriage or racism as well as the death penalty or anti-immigrant policies. CCHD will be more clear on important distinctions between promoting civic participation, which is encouraged, and avoiding partisan political activities, which is prohibited. No CCHD funds will go to groups whose activities conflict with fundamental Catholic social and moral teaching.
2. **Sharing the Good News of CCHD** – CCHD will seek ways to tell the good news of what CCHD does in our communities and dioceses as an initiative of the Catholic Church. CCHD will employ stronger pro-active communications strategies working with USCCB and diocesan social mission, education, communications and collections structures.
3. **CCHD's Catholic Participation** – CCHD will lift up, strengthen and give priority to the active participation of Catholic pastors, parishes and other institutions in the work of CCHD, especially encouraging and supporting engagement of the Catholic community in activities and groups that advance CCHD's Gospel mission and moral foundations. CCHD will promote focused discussion and dialogue with partners and other groups on how to strengthen the Church's social mission and improve efforts to overcome poverty in our parishes and communities.
4. **CCHD and USCCB Priorities** – CCHD will link its activities more directly to the Priorities of the Bishops' Conference, specifically how poverty undermines human life and dignity, the clear connections between marriage and family life and the poverty of children and the need to build bridges across ethnic, racial and cultural lines to advance these common priorities.
5. **CCHD's Priority for the Poor** – CCHD expresses in action the Church's priority for those who are poor and represents a national Catholic commitment to help overcome poverty in the United States. CCHD seeks to apply the principles of participation; subsidiarity and solidarity to help those who are poor act and speak for themselves, their own families and communities wherever key decisions are made. CCHD will use realistic, effective new ways to ensure that those who are poor play major roles in guiding CCHD activities, including refining and broadening measures of poverty and participation.
6. **CCHD Strategic Grants** – CCHD will be more proactive on issues of poverty and economic injustice at the national level, addressing emerging challenges and the priorities of the Bishops' Conference, while continuing to respond to local issues. New Strategic National Grants will help CCHD address emerging and neglected issues related to the causes of poverty and USCCB priorities.
7. **CCHD's Diocesan Partnership** – CCHD seeks to strengthen the essential partnership between its national structures and local bishops and dioceses. The fundamental CCHD safeguard remains the approval of the diocesan bishop before any group can be funded. CCHD will share best diocesan practices and strengthen formation and training for CCHD Diocesan Directors to assist in the essential work and selection of diocesan CCHD leaders.

8. Addressing the Moral Dimensions of U.S. Poverty – The USCCB should provide leadership by applying Catholic social teaching, especially the recent encyclicals of Benedict XVI, to the moral and human dimensions of widespread poverty in these times of economic turmoil. The Bishops’ Conference should consider a reflection on Catholic teaching and poverty and/or other education and action resources focused on Catholic teaching, poverty, family, and economic justice.
9. Ethical Guidance – No group that advocates or acts in opposition to fundamental Catholic social and moral teaching is eligible for or will receive CCHD funding. CCHD is developing greater capacity for ethical guidance in applying Catholic moral teaching to matters of funding, collaboration, coalitions and relationships. This includes regular consultation with moral theologians and the use of a Review Board to advise bishops, CCHD and dioceses in disputed cases. CCHD also proposes a broader USCCB task force to address the Conference’s ethical limitations and practical advantages in working with others to advance common priorities in a pluralistic society.
10. The Soul of CCHD – CCHD will strengthen the understanding of its work as a “concrete practice of love” (*Deus Caritas Est*, 14) and work of the Church, responding to biblical mandates to hunger and thirst for justice and the Catholic call to live out our faith in action as Eucharistic people. For Catholics, CCHD is important not just for what it does, but for what it says about who we are, what we believe and how our faith calls us to act in solidarity with “the least of these.”

Conclusion: Renewal and Recommitment to CCHD

In accepting this Report and affirming these Ten Commitments, the United States Conference of Bishops would recommit our community of faith to the essential national mission of a renewed and strengthened Catholic Campaign for Human Development. This recommitment would be an **act of faith** as disciples of Jesus Christ applying the teaching of His Church in our own time. This would be a **sign of hope** acting on our conviction that, with God’s help, people working together can overcome poverty. This would be an **expression of love**, love for the “least of these” and love of the Lord which are at the center of the Church’s life and mission.

At this time of great economic suffering, it is more important than ever for the Church in the United States through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ “to bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, new sight to the blind and to set the downtrodden free.” (Luke 4:18)